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limits of one hundred pages, excluding syntax, but including the history of the language, phonology, inflections, particles, composition, and derivation." This is a large aim for a very small book. For example, the history of English is treated in ten pages. Yet the little book is full to the brim of interesting facts in regard to phonology, inflection, and derivation, so that if carefully studied it must be of real value. A commendable feature is the appendix, containing short examples from all periods of English, together with copious notes.

O. F. E.

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*A Practical German Grammar.*—By CALVIN THOMAS, Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures in the University of Michigan. New York: Henry Holt & Co. (1895); pp. ix. + 411.

WHEN Professor Thomas' edition of Goethe's *Tasso* appeared some years ago it was pronounced, judged from a literary point of view, that is, as a work intended for the student of literature, "the best edition of a German classic issued in this country" (*Modern Language Notes*, Vol. IV., p. 30), and his Goethe's *Faust*, Part I., which came out later, is undoubtedly the best edition of that masterpiece that has been published in this country or in England. This scholar has now produced a Grammar, which will surely take equal rank with his *Tasso* and his *Faust*. It is, indeed, in the opinion of the present writer, the best working German Grammar in the English language.

The book has been written in accordance with correct pedagogical principles and is in no sense an experiment, but embodies the ideas of method which have commended themselves to the author after many years of successful experience in the class room. It is divided into two parts. Part I. is designed as a beginner's manual, but is intended for beginners who have passed the age of childhood. The author holds the sound belief that such persons should have grammar lessons from the first, rightly maintaining at the same time, however, that the object of study is the language, not the grammar, the latter being, properly speaking, only the means to an end. Merely the fundamental facts, therefore, are given in Part I., and the order of presentation is the one usually followed in scientific grammars. The chapter on pronunciation and accentuation is clear and sensible. Not enough of the vocabulary of phonetics is introduced to confuse the student. The treatment of these subjects, pronunciation and accentuation, is indeed quite suf-

ficient, covering over nineteen pages. It is understood that the learner must acquire the accurate sounds by practice in imitation of the instructor. Much more depends, of course, upon the teacher than upon the book. But how often does the teacher leave the book to stand alone not only in pronunciation, but also in other matters! Behind any text-book, no matter how excellent, there should be a live, active teacher, capable of inspiring with enthusiasm. Learners will experience some difficulty in acquiring the sound of the "voiced guttural spirant" and that of the "voiced palatal spirant" described in the paragraphs on the pronunciation of *g*. The teacher's special assistance will be needed at this point. One important particular in which this book excels many other Grammars lies in the fact that much successful care has been bestowed upon the exercises and reading lessons. Professor Thomas aims to develop in the student, as he says, a sensitive and trustworthy feeling for the language and so his sentences contain nothing but natural forms of expression. There is then in the exercises nothing mechanical or *undeutsch*. As the author is not of German birth himself, he has, in his modesty, submitted this part of his work to various German friends. In addition to the fact that the sentences are written in good German, they possess, as Professor Thomas puts it, a small degree of human interest. One can hardly speak in too high terms of this feature of the book. The German colloquies are indeed in themselves interesting and instructive reading and are attractive to the student, as has been shown in the class room in this institution. The English exercises designed to be translated into German are in each case based upon the German. The result is that the student obtains much valuable practice in re-arranging the phrases and expressions which he has already seen and heard in the foreign language. This is certainly an admirable method to follow, at any rate in the early stages of progress, for the translation into German is thus built upon living German and consequently more nearly approaches the foreign idiom than could otherwise be the case. The word-lists are not at all obtrusive, for they contain only such words as the student needs at each step of advancement. Throughout Part I. are helpful, suggestive footnotes, with just the kind of information needed by the learner.

Part II. is devoted to the less fundamental matters of grammatical scholarship, and, as the author states in his Preface, is meant to be used for systematic study, and for reference, in connection with the reading of German authors. It contains no exercises. It is introduced by a

brief statement of the historical development of German, and then follows a scholarly treatise on syntax, all of which seems highly commendable. The uses of the article, of the noun, of the adjective, of the pronoun and all kindred subjects are fully and clearly explained and illustrated. The strong verbs are not divided into the *Ablaut* classes, but are more conveniently arranged in one alphabet, the class to which each belongs being indicated. This list is quite complete, for it aims to contain all the verbs of late modern German that have any strong forms. Professor Thomas' account of the tenses and of the modes is characteristically logical and sensible. The prepositions, too, are given in one alphabetical list, which, with the accompanying comments and illustrations, will be found to be one of the best and most valuable things in the whole book. There are two appendices; the first is a succinct statement of the rules of the revised German orthography, and the second shows the relation of the English language to the German, setting forth in a discriminating and perspicuous manner the application of "Grimm's Law." This is followed by five specimen pages of German script.

The book is remarkably free from misprints and errors. Some have, however, been noted. For example, on page 40 in note 13, for "prounce" read pronounce; the numbering of the notes on page 94 does not agree with that of the preceding reading lesson on page 93, to which the numbers refer.

To sum up, this Grammar is the production of one of the best German scholars in this country; it is based upon sound pedagogical principles that have been tested by long experience; it presents living German; it will create and cultivate in the student a proper *Sprachgefühl*; it is clear and concise in statement, being, above all, refreshingly practical and sensible. The further remark may be made that the typography, paper and binding are in keeping with the high character of the work. In the hands of a judicious and efficient instructor the book cannot fail to produce excellent results.

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*The Werner Mental Arithmetic.* By ALBERT U. RAUB. Chicago :  
The Werner Company, 1894. Pp. 158. Price, 30 cts.

With all due regard to the serious efforts of the author, many teachers who examine this work will wonder how a publishing house